establishment of a fertilizer plant in Tripura have not been prepared.

Production of Steel

2686. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of steel in the country during the last three years, year-wise and plant-wise;

(b) whether the production of steel is sufficient to meet the demand;

(c) if not, the steps Government propose to take to bridge the gap of production and demand of steel;

(d) whether Government propose to encourage private participation to increase the production of steel in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Plant-wise production of finished steel during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 was as under:—

(in '000 tonnes)

Plant	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Bhilai Steel Plant	2138	2189	2207
Durgapur Steel Plant	454	500	579
Rourkela Steel Plant	1151	1104	1159
Bokaro Steel Plant	2864	3084	2999
Total (SAIL Plants)	6607	6877	6944
Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO)	322	254	282
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	540	666	968
Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO)	945	971	1372
Total Main Producers	8414	8768	9566
Secondary Producers	6790	6431	8253
Grand Total:	15204	15199	17819

(b) to (e) During 1995-96, the domestic production of finished steel is expected to be 20.79 million tonnes as against the projected domestic demand of 20.32 million tonnes.

The Government has taken a number of steps to increase the production of steel in order to meet the increasing demand. Public Sector Steel Plants have taken up expansion and modernisation programmes. Due to resource constraint, no new steel plant is being planned in the Public Sector. Government is, therefor, encouraging and facilitating the setting up" of steel plants in the private sector. Some of the steps taken by the Government in this direction are:—

(i) Removal of iron and steel from the list of industries reserved for public sector;

(ii) Exemption of iron and steel industry from the provisions of compulsory licensing subject to certain'locational restrictions.

(iii) Inclusion of iron and steel in the list of high priority industries for purposes of foreign investment;

(iv) De-regulation of pricing and distribution of iron and steel;

(v) Reduction of duty on import of capital goods;

(vi) Liberalisation of import and export policy; and

(vii) Provision of Linkages for iron ore, coal and transport to new